

Akshay Sharma IFSO Observership Program 2026

IFSO Observership Program 2026

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The IFSO Observership Program 2026 is an exceptional opportunity for healthcare professionals, particularly those in the field of metabolic and bariatric surgery (MBS), to gain invaluable experience and enhance their skills. This program allows participants to visit some of the leading MBS centers around the globe for a duration ranging from one to three weeks, providing an immersive environment where they can observe the latest techniques and practices in bariatric care [11, 20].

The main aim of the program is to support early-career professionals and integrated health members by offering a platform to observe surgical procedures, patient management, and the operational environment of notable hospitals. Participants will not actively practice during the observership; rather, they will focus on learning and networking with renowned experts in the field [14, 18].

How To Apply IFSO 2026 Program

Upon completion of the program, each participant will receive a Certificate of participation, which can be a significant addition to their professional credentials, showing their commitment to development in bariatric surgery [15].

Applications for the observership are competitive, and it's crucial to complete the program before the IFSO World Congress, scheduled for September 2026 in Toronto, Canada, where certificates will be awarded [12, 19]. You can find more details, including the list of participating hospitals and program guidelines, on the IFSO website [14, 16]. This is an incredible chance to boost your career while expanding your professional network in the global healthcare community. Be sure to prepare your application carefully to maximize your chances of being selected for this prestigious program.

IFSO Observership Program 2026

The **International Federation for the Surgery of Obesity and Metabolic Disorders (IFSO)** offers two distinct Observership Programs in 2026 — one for **Surgeons** and one for **Integrated Health (IH) Professionals** — aimed at advancing knowledge and skills in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (MBS).



Program Overview

The IFSO Observership Program is designed to give early-career members the opportunity to **visit world-renowned MBS centres** for a period of **1 to 3 weeks**. Upon completion, observers receive an official **IFSO Certificate**. Those who complete the program before the **IFSO World Congress in Toronto (September 2026)** will receive their certificate during the Congress. [3](#) [2](#)

For Surgeons

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an **IFSO Member in good standing** and a graduate of a school of medicine [1](#)

- Currently in **training or practicing MBS** (not more than 5 years after finishing training) [1](#)
- May only be awarded this grant **once** [1](#)

Application Documents Required

-  Completed Application Form
 -  One-page **CV**
 -  One-page **Personal Statement** covering:
 - Future career aims in MBS
 - Next steps in career development
 - How the observership will benefit the applicant and MBS in their home country
 -  **Letter of Recommendation** from Head of Department / Professional Mentor / IFSO Member [1](#)
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For Integrated Health (IH) Professionals

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an **IFSO IH Member in good standing** [2](#)
- Must be **at least 25 years of age** at the time of application [2](#)
- Currently **practising in the MBS field** with relevant professional registration or academic degree [2](#)
- Must submit a **written report to IFSO within one month** of completing the observership [2](#)

Application Documents Required

-  Completed Application Form
-  One-page **CV**
-  One-page **Personal Statement** covering:

- Experience and contribution as an IH member of a multidisciplinary MBS team
- How the observership will help career development
- How it will contribute to MBS development in the applicant's home country
-  **Letter of Recommendation** from Head of Department / Professional Mentor / IFSO Member [2](#)

Educational Grant Support

Detail	Amount
Maximum Grant	USD \$2,500
Coverage	Travel, accommodation, local transportation & meals
Duration	Minimum 1 week – Maximum 3 weeks
Additional Expenses	At the observer's own charge

The grant amount is assessed **case by case** based on city of origin, hosting city, and length of stay. [1](#) [2](#)

Hosting Hospitals

IFSO has curated a list of the **best and most renowned MBS centres** across different IFSO Chapters. Each hospital/centre meets the following criteria:

- Routine protocols in place
- **Multidisciplinary team**
- Logistic support
- **>200 MBS cases/year** (for surgical centres) [1](#) [4](#)

How to Apply

Send an email to  info@ifso.com with all required documents:

1. Application Form
2. CV
3. Personal Statement
4. Letter of Recommendation

[3](#)

Official Resources

Resource	Link
Surgeon Observership	ifso.com/surgeons
IH Observership	ifso.com/ih-observership
2026 Program Page	ifso.com/observership-program
2026 IH Guidelines PDF	Download PDF